



State of Wisconsin
Department of Public Instruction
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

*****NEWS RELEASE*****

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Six nominated for presidential teaching awards

MADISON—State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster congratulated six Wisconsin middle and high school teachers for their exemplary work in the classroom as she forwarded their nominations to national competition for Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

The six were among those nominated last school year by principals, teachers, students, parents, or members of the community. “You represent the best of a cadre of outstanding mathematics and science teachers,” Burmaster said. “This honor recognizes your excellence in teaching and serves as an inspiration for the improvement of mathematics and science teaching.”

The Wisconsin mathematics nominees are Wanda Bussey, Rufus King High School in Milwaukee; Margaret Hartwig, Marshfield High School; and Michelle Parks of Altoona, Northstar Middle School in Eau Claire. Science nominees are Nancy AufderHeide of Oshkosh, Einstein Middle School in Appleton; Dana Krejcarek of Fond du Lac, Kohler High School; and Sue Whitsett of Oshkosh, Fond du Lac High School.

Each nominee for the presidential teaching awards program submitted a videotaped lesson, written responses to questions about their instructional practice, sample student work, and a resume of their background and experience. State-level finalists will be judged by a national committee reporting to the National Science Foundation, which will select one teacher of mathematics and one of science to receive the Presidential Awards. They will be among up to 108 presidential teaching award recipients—representing the 50 states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Department of Defense schools, and U.S. territories—recognized in Washington, D.C., next spring. In addition to the trip to the nation’s capital, each presidential teaching award recipient will receive \$10,000, attend professional development sessions, and be honored in a variety of ceremonies over the course of the recognition week.

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Wisconsin's six secondary-level finalists will receive National Science Foundation State Certificates for Excellence in Teaching Mathematics and Science at an awards program and reception this fall in Madison.

"The presidential teaching awards are considered the nation's highest honor for mathematics and science teachers," Burmaster noted. "As we strive to fulfill our New Wisconsin Promise to have quality educators in every classroom, these teachers exemplify instructional excellence as they make meaningful contributions to their profession."

The Presidential Awards of Excellence for Mathematics and Science Teaching were established in 1983 to improve the image and status of mathematics and science teaching. Only seventh- through 12th-grade teachers are recognized this year. Elementary school teachers will be recognized in 2006. Information about making nominations for next year's program, which are due by May 1, can be found on the Presidential Awards of Excellence for Mathematics and Science Teaching website at < <http://www.paemst.org/> >.

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